

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → +

PTO/SB/08A (08-00)
Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0551-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO <h3 style="text-align: center;">INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">(use as many sheets as necessary)</p>	<h4 style="text-align: center;">Complete If Known</h4> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Application Number</td> <td>10/728,687</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Filing Date</td> <td>2/5/2003</td> </tr> <tr> <td>First Named Inventor</td> <td>Slautterback et al</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group Art Unit</td> <td>3743</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Examiner Name</td> <td>SHUMATE ALI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Attorney Docket Number</td> <td>3877</td> </tr> </table>	Application Number	10/728,687	Filing Date	2/5/2003	First Named Inventor	Slautterback et al	Group Art Unit	3743	Examiner Name	SHUMATE ALI	Attorney Docket Number	3877
Application Number	10/728,687												
Filing Date	2/5/2003												
First Named Inventor	Slautterback et al												
Group Art Unit	3743												
Examiner Name	SHUMATE ALI												
Attorney Docket Number	3877												
Sheet 1 of 1													

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
SA		5,372,576		Rickey L. Hicks	12-13-1994	
		6,067,987		Samuel Scheinberg	5-30-2000	
		6,056,712		Tracy E. Grim	5-2-2000	
		5,853,380		John J. Miller	12-29-1998	
		5,197,942		Harold Brady	3-30-1993	
		5,151,081		Paul J. Williams	9-29-1992	
		5,961,477		Craig H. Turtzo	10-5-1999	
		2002/0138029		Nail R. Bachelder	9-26-2002	
SA		2001/0031936		James Pior, et al.	10-18-2001	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

Examiner Signature <i>Shumate Ali</i>	Date Considered <i>3/23/05</i>
---------------------------------------	--------------------------------

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.